BUILD UNIVERSES

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Mirrors and water

Short story for children

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Short story for children

The weather is beautiful and warm. The sun sends its golden rays, and the air sends its refreshing breezes. On top of a high hill, an old man sat contemplating the small village below. And a thin child with bright eyes and a calm, confident smile stood next to him.

The two of them contemplated the hustle and bustle of the village and enjoyed the beauty of nature. The child said: “Finally, we got the key, and life is brought back to the village.” The old man took a deep breath of fresh air, then said in relief: “Yes, we did.”

After a period of silence, the old man asked the child: “What did you learn during your adventures, Mohab?” Mohab smiled and looked to the old man, saying: “I learned a lot!” Then, he looked back in front of him enjoying the breathtaking landscape, and he remembered the exciting events that happened a few days ago.

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PROLOGUE

In a distant, unknown place, at the bottom of a high green hill, there was a small village whose inhabitants live in happiness, harmony and peace. However, there were seven wicked villagers, with massive, muscular bodies. The people of the village resented them and called them the Wicked Giants.

One night, the Wicked Giants gathered and decided to unite to take revenge on the villagers. They thought of an evil plan, and eventually one of them came up with a horrible idea: Taking control over the village well. All agreed upon the idea, and they spent all night forging and assembling a huge heavy iron box around the well, then they locked its door firmly. After that, they left the village before the break of dawn.

In the morning, people realized the seriousness of the situation, so tension grew in the air, and chaos spread. Suddenly, the Sage of the village advanced among the crowd, and he made a sign for them to calm down, then he addressed them saying:

- The Wicked Giants united and took control over the well by constructing a solid metal box around it, and they latched its door with a large, unbreakable lock. Then they took the key and left the village, heading towards the Great Tower. If anyone wants to try to retrieve the key and save the village from an inevitable peril, they should visit me at my house for I will guide them. But you should all know that whoever wants to undertake this quest should not rely on physical strength, but rather on a pure heart and a sharp mind.

Then, the old man went to his house, walking slowly, leaning on his wooden cane. And when he arrived, he sat in the garden waiting for someone to volunteer to save the village. He waited patiently and calmly for the rest of the day, until the sun went down toward sunset. Suddenly, he heard steps coming close to the house, then someone knocked on the door. The old man got up and opened the door: it was a thin child. He had clear eyes gleaming with intelligence and determination. The old man was astonished, but he invited the child in, and they sat in the garden.

After a period of silence, the Sage asked the child:

- Are you sure of your decision, son? You should know that your quest will not be easy, but it will be dangerous and full of hardships.

The child answered:

- Yes, I am sure, sir.

The Sage smiled, and asked again:

- What is your name, son? And what do your parents think of your decision?

The child replied:

- My name is Mohab, sir, and I am an orphan.

The Sage stared at Mohab with keen eyes, and he instantly knew that the child was kind-hearted and smart. So he said in a solemn tone:

- Okay, Mohab. Your adventure will start tomorrow, and I will help you with guidance and advice. What do you think?

- I agree, sir. Would you please explain the details of this adventure?

- Of course, son. The Wicked Giants have hidden the metal box's key in the Great Tower east of our village, and they agreed on never letting anyone get to the key. But there are seven mirrors scattered in different places, and these mirrors are the perfect way to defeat the Wicked Giants. I suggest that you get one mirror every day, and when the mirrors are complete, you take them and go on the eighth day to the Great Tower where you will face the seven Giants and retrieve the key. The village reservoirs are filled with water, but they will only sustain us for eight days, so you have eight days to complete your quest successfully and save the village.

- And what about those Giants?

- They are seven huge people with extraordinary physical strength, and they have evil characters.

- So the Wicked Giants are huge and ferocious. It seems that I will not be able to vanquish them using strength.

- Indeed, Mohab. You will not be able to defeat them through strength, but through ruse. Now that you know the details of your adventure, tell me, what do you intend to do and what is your goal?

- My goal is to eliminate the Wicked Giants, because they seek to annihilate us.

The wise man smiled affectionately, and said:

- No, son, your goal should not be to eliminate the Wicked Giants, but rather to liberate them from the evils that dwell

inside their characters. Do not be cruel, always show mercy and tolerance, even toward your enemies.

Mohab nodded approvingly. And the Sage continued saying:

- Son, life is meaningless without goals. Always set noble goals for yourself, and channel your thoughts and efforts toward your goals, and stay away from the losers who try to frustrate you or minimize your goals. Always think of a big, noble objective, then break it down into small goals. For example, now your big objective is retrieving the key from the Wicked Giants, and your small goals are finding the mirrors which will help you accomplish your objective. Wake up every morning with your objective in mind, and always remember that the long path to it begins with a step, followed by a step, followed by more steps, as a great success is an accumulation of a thousand small unnoticed efforts. If your objective is hard to reach, do not feel desperate, but be diligent and patient, as no ambition worth achieving comes about easily. And remember that those who honestly seek to achieve their objectives, convenient circumstances will happen just to support them through their journey. In your way, you may stumble and fall, do not stay down feeling sorry for yourself, but get up every time you fall, wipe off the dirt and carry on your journey to your objective with perseverance and determination, for every bump will make you stronger and wiser.

Mohab was impressed by the wise words of the Sage, so he listened with all his heart. The Sage continued saying:

- I also recommend that you cherish nature and preserve it throughout your quest, son. For example, do not harm trees by breaking their branches or cutting their leaves. Trees are generous living creatures which provide us with oxygen, shade and fruit. Nature is your friend, so act friendly towards it, take care of it and enjoy its beauty. And do not

hesitate to ask questions and think about what you see, as questions are curiosity's tools, and curiosity is the path to discovery. And do know, son, that water is the secret of life, and as precious as it is we unfortunately always take it for granted. When you hold a glass of water to drink it, look at it and smile, and thank God for this precious gift!

Then, he took out of his pocket a bottle of honey and a map, and gave them to Mohab saying:

- This is a clear map in which you can see the locations of the mirrors and the tower. And this is a bottle of pure, tasty honey. Eat some of it whenever you feel hungry during your adventures. Always carry the map and honey with you. Honey is a delicious food full of numerous benefits, and it can be used to produce various natural medicines and cosmetics. Let me give you some information about bees: The exploration bee flies out of the hive looking for flowers, and when it finds a suitable place, it flies back to the hive and performs a wonderful dance called the Waggle Dance to show the rest of the bees where the location is. So bees come out and fly there with astonishing accuracy! Do you know, son, that the existence of bees is crucial for the survival and stability of human life? If someday bees go extinct, this may lead to the extinction of us humans, because bees are responsible of a vital function which is pollination of plants and crops.

Now, go home and enjoy a restful sleep in preparation for your first adventure; and tomorrow wear warm woolen clothes, because you will be going to a cold place.

Mohab thanked the Sage for his guidance and precious advice, then he went back home all determined on accomplishing his mission successfully.

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1
MIRROR OF HUMILITY

The next morning, Mohab wore warm woolen clothes and went to the Sage’s house. When he arrived, the Sage said to him:

- Your first destination is the mountain top in the north-west, where you will face the fierce boar and get the mirror of Humility which will help you defeat the Arrogant Giant.

Mohab hesitated for a moment, then asked:

- And what if I feel scared?

And the wise man answered with a smile:

- Fear is a natural emotion when we face danger, son. Courage is not fearlessness; rather, courage is resisting fear and overcoming it. When you feel scared, take a deep breath to clear your thoughts and be able to focus.

Mohab nodded in agreement; so the Sage paused a moment, and then he continued saying:

- Son, arrogance is a hideous attitude. And the most beautiful feeling in life is to get to know yourself and know your real worth. Do not despise people, and do not belittle small living creatures. For example, do not think of an ant as an insignificant thing, it is a living creature like you and me. Moreover, this small creature teaches us valuable lessons in perseverance and teamwork. If you allow yourself to step on an ant and crash it for fun, it means that you are an arrogant person. If you use your strength to intimidate those who are weaker than you, then this is a sign of your weakness, not your strength. Look at the water irrigating trees quietly

and modestly, so their roots expand, and their trunks grow stronger, and their branches ramify, and their leaves grow green and beautiful. Humility is a quality of the greats.

Now is the time for your first adventure, son. Walk to the north-west until you find a large eagle; it will take you to the mountain top. But before that, let me give you some information about the eagle and the boar.

The eagle is a bird of prey that lives on tall peaks. It locates its prey with sharp accuracy, and then, at the right moment, it flies down at it fast like an arrow. Its sharp claws are strong, and enable it to take hold of its prey and fly away with it.

The wild boar is an omnivore that lives in mountains and forests. When it feels danger, it attacks fast, directing its strong tusks toward its opponent.

Mohab went out and took a look at the map, then he went north-west until he found a majestic eagle standing solemnly above a rock. Mohab got on the eagle, and the mighty bird spread its strong wings and flapped them steadily, then it flew up in the sky. While the eagle was flying high, Mohab looked around enjoying the beauty of nature, and saw flocks of small, beautiful birds flying and chirping in perfect harmony. And he noticed that the weather grew colder as the eagle went higher. The mountain appeared from a distance, surrounded by light mist. Finally, Mohab reached the mountain summit, and the weather was chilly. He wandered among the rocks until he saw the wild boar. Its huge head was strange and frightening, with two sharp, strong tusks. Mohab got terrified, but he remembered the Sage’s words, so he closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

He advanced until the boar saw him, so the ferocious animal ran fast toward him. The brave child ran to a huge rock, and it seemed for a moment that collision was inevitable! But at the last second, he jumped to the rock and put his feet on it and bounced back in a wonderful backflip, and got down

on his feet laughing: “Watch out!” The boar smashed at the huge rock, and fell unconscious. Mohab looked for the mirror of Humility until he found it on a nearby rock. So he took it and went back to the village on the eagle. When he arrived, he gave the mirror to the Sage of the village, and went home happy and proud of his first successful adventure.

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2
MIRROR OF HONESTY

In the following morning, the Sage said to Mohab:

- Your second destination is the river south-east of the village, where you will face the crocodile and get the mirror of Honesty which will help you defeat the Liar Giant.

He paused a moment, then said:

- Honesty is a basic principle in life, my son. As wisdom is the beauty of mind, truthfulness is the beauty of words. An honest person will reap the trust and respect of people, while the liar will come clean, sooner or later, losing people's trust and respect. Lying is a form of deception, and when a liar thinks they are deceiving the others, they are actually deceiving themselves in the first place. Clear water is a symbol of honesty and purity. So, like clear water, be honest with yourself first, then with others. We should not only speak truthfully, we should live truthfully, for truthfulness is a sign of credibility, and lying is a sign of hypocrisy. And remember, son, that honesty is the first step in the path of wisdom.

Mohab nodded approvingly, then he asked:

- But, sir, why don't people take water from the river?

The Sage answered:

- That is a clever question, son. Unfortunately, the river is polluted, and its water is not suitable for drinking.

Outside the village, you will find a deer that will take you to the river. But before that, let me give you some information about the deer and the crocodile.

Deer live in grasslands and forests. It’s a herbivore that spends the day searching for grass. It ruminates its food, just like the cow does. The deer’s antlers fall regularly, and they are replaced by new ones.

The crocodile is a cold-blooded reptile. It is a skillful swimmer, as it uses its strong tail to move in water with flexibility. Its skin is made of rough, solid scales, and its jaws are powerful. The crocodile does not chew its prey, but rather splits it in parts or swallows it wholly, then digests it. The crocodile can survive for months without food.

Mohab went out and looked at the map, then he walked south-east of the village, until he found a brown deer waiting for him. Mohab got on the deer and held tight to its antlers, so the deer set out hopping gracefully. Finally, Mohab reached the river. He hopped off the back of the deer, tapped on it, then proceeded cautiously to the riverbank looking for the ferocious animal. The course of the river was wide, with scattered rocks here and there, and water flowing sometimes gently and sometimes violently. The riverbanks were green with various plants and shady trees.

Mohab saw the lazy crocodile lying idly on the riverbank, and the mirror of Honesty was on a rock in the middle of the river. Mohab pulled out of his bag a strong rope, and he advanced to the crocodile courageously. The crocodile saw Mohab, so it crawled toward him quickly in a frightening movement. Mohab waited carefully until the monster was close to him, and jumped on its back. Then he grabbed the rope firmly, and fastened it tightly around the crocodile jaws, saying cheerfully: “Excuse me, but you have to keep your mouth shut for some time, my friend.” Then he jumped off its back. The huge animal started writhing right and left, trying to get rid of the rope, while Mohab got into the river. He took the mirror of Honesty and put it in his bag. Then, he went back to the crocodile and said laughing: “I apologize

again. Here you go, enjoy your freedom.” He freed the crocodile, so it hurried panicking to the river, and it disappeared under its surface. Mohab exhaled with relief and happiness, then he rode the deer back to the village, and left the mirror to the Sage, and went back home.

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3
MIRROR OF EARNESTNESS

The next morning, the Sage of the village said to Mohab:

- Your third destination is the forest, west of the village, where you will face the bear and get the mirror of Earnestness which will help you defeat the Frivolous Giant.

Do know, son, that an earnest person ponders ideas carefully before behaving or taking decisions. An earnest person builds their character with moral values such as humility, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, and decency. Moral values are a source of happiness and strength; they give you confidence, determination and prestige. So live your life abiding by moral values, and always be confident and dependable. Do not give up to life's harsh situations, but be flexible enough and adapt to them without forsaking your moral values, for values stay the same regardless of the circumstances. Be like clear water which adapts to the shape of the container in which it is poured, without losing its purity.

The Sage paused for a moment, then continued saying:

- A friendly elephant is waiting for you outside the village. It will take you to the bear cave in the middle of the forest. Let me give you some information about the elephant and the bear.

The elephant is a giant, long-lived herbivore. It's the largest animal on land. Its two big ears give it an acute sense of hearing, and it uses its hose and ivory tusks to get its food from trees and plants. The elephant is a smart animal with a remarkable memory. It remembers the paths to faraway

water locations. It is a sensitive animal, it gets sad if an elephant of the group dies, and it mourns the remains of its corpse.

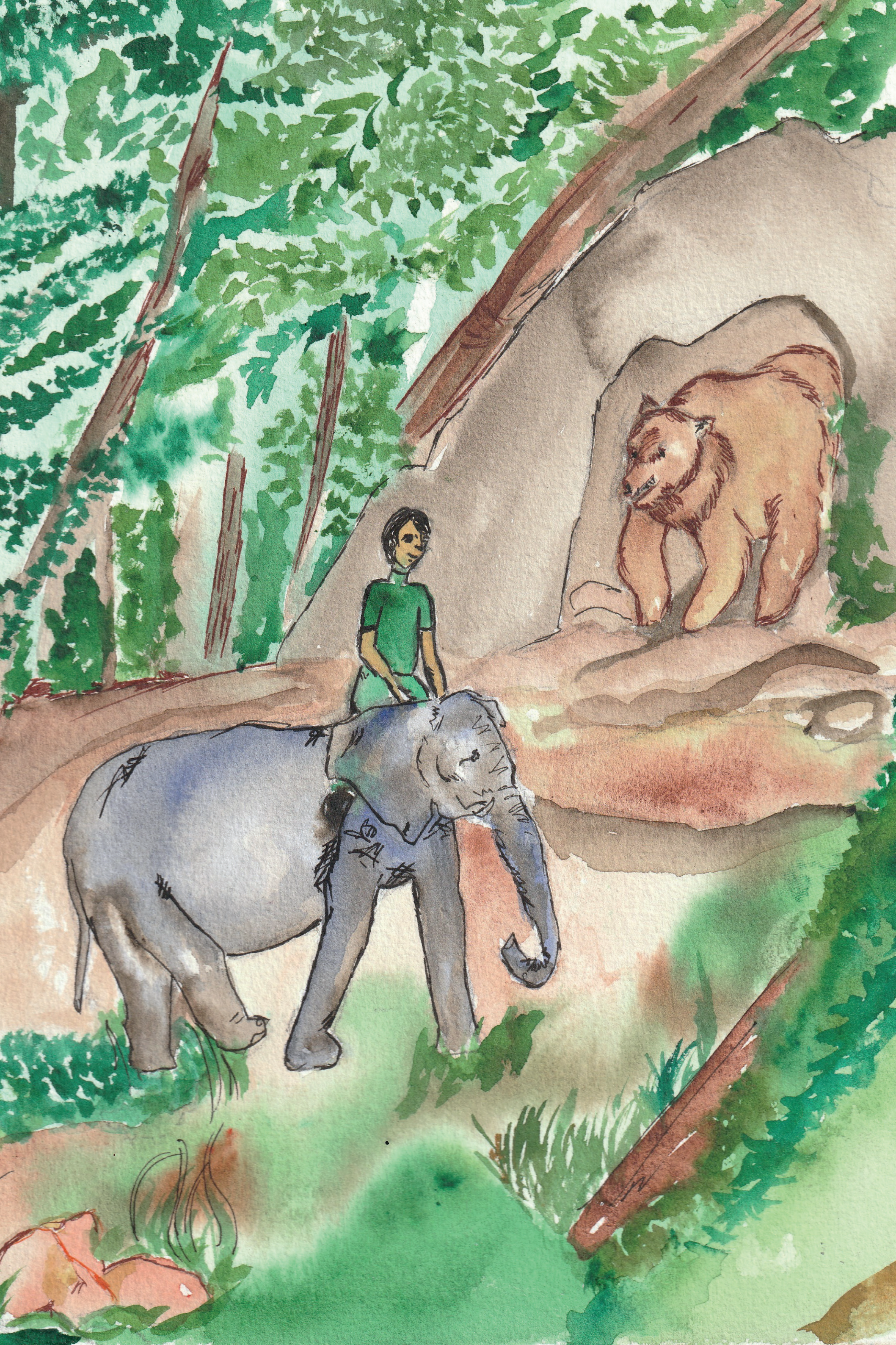
The bear is a fierce omnivore that walks on four, and it can stand on its two strong back legs. It has sharp fangs and claws, and it is able to climb trees. During autumn, it eats heavily and increases its weight in preparation for winter hibernation. And when winter comes, the bear lies idly in its den until cold is over and spring settles.

Mohab went out and looked at the map, then went west, so he found an elephant waiting for him. He got on the elephant and set off to the forest.

The sun was shining, its rays were warm, and the sky was clear blue with some light white clouds swimming in it. The elephant entered the forest, so Mohab felt surrounded by countless majestic shady trees. Their trunks were huge, and their leafy branches were tangled, letting thin sun rays sparkle through. Mohab raised his hand and passed his fingers through the leaves, enjoying the beauty of the forest.

The elephant arrived at the bear cave. Mohab has decided to lure the bear by pouring honey over a nearby rock. He pulled out the bottle of honey that the Sage gave to him, but he realized that this was a small quantity. Moreover, the bottle of honey was a present, and presents are not to be relinquished. So Mohab went wandering among the trees, until he found an abandoned beehive. He took it and emptied it over a rock close to the bear cave, and then he hid behind a huge tree.

The sweet smell of tasty honey spread widely until the nose of the bear picked it up, so the big animal got up and went out of its cave searching for the delicious meal. The bear was enormous, its legs were massive, and its fur was thick and dense. Mohab waited patiently until the bear started eating the honey, then he entered the cave and searched



for the mirror of Earnestness until he found it in a back corner. He took it and went out of the cave saying cheerfully: “Dear voracious bear, you found your treasure, and I found mine!” He then rode the elephant back to the village joyfully, and gave the mirror to the Sage and went back home.

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4
MIRROR OF RESPONSIBILITY

The next morning, the Sage of the village said to Mohab:

- Your fourth destination is the desert south of the village, where you will face the big poisonous spider and get the mirror of Responsibility which will help you defeat the Reckless Giant.

He paused for a moment, then said:

- The sense of responsibility is the way to success, son, while recklessness throws you into the swamp of failure. Do know that your life is the result of your thoughts and decisions. It is you who decide to live a life of success and happiness, or a life of failure and sorrow. You should be responsible for your actions and your life. And if you fail in something, do not blame the others, but be strong and take responsibility for your failure. Then, look for the real reasons why you failed and learn lessons, and change your negative thoughts with positive thoughts, then carry on your journey. That's how you triumph over your failure and advance steadily toward success. Lead your life and do not let anyone take control of it. And always remember that success achieved by cheating or manipulation is fake and shameful. God has made water an essential element for living creatures. Like water, always strive to be an essential person in society, a person who always acts kindly and endeavors to make the world a better place.

Then he gave Mohab a leather flask full of water and said:

- Out of the village, you will find a camel that will take

you across the desert. Take this with you, for you will get thirsty on your way through the harsh desert. But before you go, let me give you some information about the camel and the spider.

The Arab camel has one hump, and the Asian camel has two humps. The camel stores fat in its hump, and it consumes it when it does not find food and water, so it is an enduring animal. The camel walks in a strange way, as it moves its two legs from one side, then the other two from the other side. There are two other animals walking that way, the giraffe and the cat.

Insects have six legs, three body parts and two sensors. Spiders have eight legs, two body parts and no sensors. There are numerous kinds of spiders in different sizes and colors, but only a few possess harmful venom to human health, like the Black Widow. Most types of spiders have weak eyesight.

Mohab went out and looked at the map, then went south. Out of the village, he found the "ship of desert" waiting for him. The camel was brown, strong, and on its back there was a large hump.

Mohab got on the camel, so it rose slowly and moved calmly. As soon as the camel entered the desert, a hot breeze welcomed Mohab. The vast desert spread to the horizons, furnished with golden sand and dunes of various heights. The sun was blazing, and the hot wind blew with a sharp sound carrying sand. Mohab pulled out his handkerchief, moistened it with water, and wrapped it around his head and face, and then urged his obedient camel to go fast. Half an hour later, Mohab saw the web of the spider stretched and tied to two great cacti, and he saw the enormous frightening spider lying idly in the middle of it. Its legs were long and folded, and its body was covered in shaggy hair. He stopped the camel and got down, and stared at his opponent from a distance. Then he took a big stick from his bag, and walked

ducking around one cactus and behind the web of the spider without it noticing him. He approached quietly, and suddenly tore the web strings with a powerful blow, saying cheerfully: “Be careful not to fall on your head, big spider.” The huge spider instantly fell flouncing in its sticky strings, and the mirror of Responsibility fell in the sand close to Mohab, so he jumped and took it fast, then walked away quickly before the spider regains its balance.

Mohab rode the camel back to the village with a smile of confidence, he gave the mirror to the Sage and went back home.

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5
MIRROR OF CONTENTMENT

In the following morning, the Sage said to Mohab:

- Your fifth destination is the sea north of the village, where you will face the shark and get the mirror of Contentment which will help you defeat the Envious Giant.

Son, envy consumes a person from the inside like fire eats hay. Do not compare yourself with others, and do not try to be better than the others, but always strive to be better than yourself, and work on improving your skills. The mind gets shallow when it's preoccupied with the others, and it thrives when it focuses on improving itself. Happiness is to appreciate what we have, for a happy person does not have everything, but they are aware of and happy with everything they have. Enjoy what you have and be satisfied with it even if it is not much, and do not look at what the others possess. In fact, the most beautiful things do not need money, like friends, smiles, and beautiful memories. The happiest person is happy from the inside, enjoys simple things and everyday activities, gives back to the community and generously helps needy people whenever possible. And remember, son, that water remains water whether you drink it in a cup of gold or in a cup of pottery.

When you reach the beach north of the village, you will find a cute dolphin that will take you to the shark. And let me give you some information about the dolphin and the shark.

The dolphin is an energetic, intelligent mammal breathing by its lungs; it uses echolocation to search for its food. It is

said that the dolphin sleeps with one eye, but the fact is that it sleeps partially with one eye and half its brain. At the same time, the other half regulates vital functions such as the preservation of body heat and swimming up to water surface to breathe. Meanwhile, the open eye watches what is going on around in anticipation of any danger.

There are many types of sharks, and their sizes are different. The shark is a fast, skillful sea predator. It breathes through gills, extracting oxygen from water. And it loses its sharp teeth to replace them regularly. It has an extraordinary sense of smell that makes it able to detect blood kilometers away.

Mohab walked out and looked at the map, then went north. On his way, he found a warm buffalo corpse, so he cut a large piece of fresh meat, and put it in his bag. The beach was clean; sand was sparkling yellow, and waves came crashing softly then retreated shyly.

Mohab swam skillfully until he reached the cute dolphin which was jumping playfully out the water surface. It had a soft shining grey skin with a dorsal fin, and two side fins. It was shouting cheerful sharp sounds. Mohab got on and held tight to the dolphin’s dorsal fin, so the dolphin set out like an arrow through sea waves.

From a distance, a large vertical fin rose among the waves. It was moving in a circular motion. Mohab tapped on the dolphin, so it stopped swimming, and he took out the fresh piece of meat and threw it in the water. Then he tapped the dolphin again, so it swam away. Soon enough, the shark discovered the existence of the fresh meat, so it swam fast towards it. Mohab tapped the dolphin again, and the obedient animal swam to where the shark was. Mohab took a deep breath, and dived into the clear, glittering waters looking for the mirror of Contentment. He was thrilled at seeing a variety of colorful marine plants, coral reefs and schools of fish swimming in perfect harmony. Suddenly, he saw the mirror above a rock close to water surface, so he swam to it and put the mirror in his bag. And then he got his head out of water and breathed deeply filling his lungs with fresh air, then he returned to the dolphin and caressed it saying cheerfully: "I hope you enjoyed your meal, dear shark, for a surprise is waiting for you." The dolphin shared his joy with a short joyful sound, then they got back to the beach. Mohab re-

turned to the village and gave the mirror of Contentment to the Sage, then went home delighted.

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6
MIRROR OF OPTIMISM

The next morning, thick dark clouds hid the blue sky and the bright sun, and then rain started to fall. Mohab hurried to the house of the Sage. When he arrived, the Sage said:

- Your sixth destination is the cave south-west of the village, where you will face the bats and get the mirror of Optimism which will help you defeat the Pessimistic Giant.

Son, do not lose hope no matter how difficult the circumstances are. Always persevere, expecting the best while preparing for the worst. Whenever you face challenges, remember that after darkness of the night comes the overwhelming light of the breaking dawn that covers the world with energy and liveliness, and after storms of the winter comes the heavenly beauty of spring that covers the world in greenery and delight. Only kind hearts and pure souls are able to see beauty in all things and small details. The pessimist looks at the empty half of the glass of water, while the optimist looks at its full half. One must be ashamed of their pessimism when looking at the smile of poor or sick people. So always be optimistic and smile through the harsh circumstances. And look at how dry lands watered by heavy rains flourish with various plants and fruitful trees.

And now, it is time for your adventure. Outside the village you will find an ostrich that will take you to the bat cave, and before you go, let me give you information about the ostrich and the bat.

The ostrich is the largest bird. Although it has wings, it is

not able to fly because of its huge size and weight. But it is able to run at an astonishing speed.

The bat is the only flying mammal. When flying, bats do not rely on the sense of sight as much as they rely on a sense similar to the dolphin's. When a bat flies, it uses echolocation by producing ultra sounds to determine what stands in its way and the distance. There are many types of bats, and during winter, some types enter the hibernation phase while others migrate.

Mohab got out of the Sage's house and looked at the map, then went south-west of the village, where he found a large ostrich. He hopped on and held on tight to its neck, so it set off running fast. The weather was raging, as rain fell heavily, and wind blew mightily. And now and then, lightning shone brightly, and thunder stroke loudly.

Finally, the ostrich arrived, so Mohab hopped off and tapped on it. Then he took a look inside the cave, and was welcomed by gloomy darkness. He took few careful steps inside, then took out of his bag a torch, he lit fire in it, held it with his right hand, and lifted it high. The damp shadowy cave spread widely. Mohab progressed steadily, guided by the flame of his torch. Soon enough, he distinguished a group of black creatures hanging from the ceiling. He stopped and waved the torch right and left. The bats hovered, shouting sharp, annoying noises that echoed horribly. There was total chaos in the cave as bats fluttered in every direction. Mohab dove quickly, but his eye caught a bright object falling down. He instantly knew it was the mirror of Optimism reflecting the glow of his torch. He stood in the blink of an eye and jumped gracefully catching the mirror before it touches the floor and breaks, then he put it in the bag gently, and retreated toward the entrance of the cave with cautious steps, while waving his torch continually to prevent bats from attacking him.

Finally, he left the cave safe and sound, got on the ostrich and headed toward the village smiling. The weather grew calmer and serene, with a colorful rainbow drawn in the distant horizon. Mohab arrived to the village, and gave the mirror to the Sage, then he went home joyfully.

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7
MIRROR OF TOLERANCE

The next morning, the Sage of the village said to Mohab:

- Your final destination is the grasslands to the north-east of the village, where you will face the malicious snake and get the mirror of Tolerance that will help you defeat the Angry Giant.

Son, anger makes a person lose control and act violently and foolishly. But trust me when I tell you that the calm tone is stronger than the angry tone. So do not raise your voice, but pick your words and choose your expressions carefully, and keep calm through stressful, frustrating situations. When you feel anger invading you, dominate your rage and control your reactions: Take a deep breath to appease your angry feelings, and change your place or drink a glass of water to extinguish the flames of anger. Do not allow anyone to provoke you, be smart and ignore them. If you start a conversation with a person and you find that they are trying to provoke you, withdraw politely, because if you continue conversing it may end in a bad quarrel. One of the most self-fulfilling emotions is to keep silent in front of those who seek to provoke and quarrel.

Outside the village, you will find a horse that will take you across the vast plains. But before you go, let me give you some information about the horse and the snake.

The horse is the noblest of animals. It is a smart and loyal friend of humans. It has the ability to run at a great speed for a long distance, and since its eyes are on both sides of its

head, its sight range is wide. Also, a horse can sleep standing on its feet.

A snake is a cold-blooded reptile. It is sneaky and flexible, and it can swallow a prey that is larger than its head. The snake can smell with its tongue, and it regularly gets rid of its skin to replace it with a new one.

Mohab walked out of the Sage's house and looked at the map, then went north-east of the village. He found a beautiful black horse. Its body was solid and graceful, its eyes were wide and glowing, and on its forehead there was a white spot making it all the more beautiful, and down its neck was a wide, strong chest.

Mohab hopped on the horse and tapped on its neck, then grabbed some of its neck's hair, and poked it gently in the stomach with his ankles. The noble animal lifted up its head neighing gently, and then set out galloping steadily across

the beautiful grasslands. Mohab enjoyed the beauty of nature around him, as the refreshing breezes blew among the fresh grass which danced left and right in harmony, and butterflies hopped gracefully among colorful flowers which released their pleasant natural fragrances, and birds in the sky chirped the loveliest melodies.

Mohab arrived to the hole of the poisonous snake. He hopped off the horse, tapped on its neck, and went in front of the hole pulling out of his bag a fresh egg immersed in a dozing substance. He put it carefully in front of the hole, then climbed a tree not too far. The poisonous snake came out wriggling. It had a dry, spotted skin and a malicious look. Mohab looked at it as it slithered to the egg and swallowed it, so he said laughing: “Nice job! For you, it’s time to sleep. So sweet dreams!” He waited patiently until the substance took effect, so the snake fell into deep sleep. Then, he climbed down the tree, looked inside the hole, and saw the mirror of Tolerance. He cautiously put his hand in, and took out the mirror gently, then he put it in his bag, and returned to the village riding the noble horse with a confident smile. He gave the last mirror to the Sage, and went home thinking about tomorrow’s ultimate trial.

* * * * *

EPILOGUE

On the eighth day, Mohab went to the house of the Sage. The Sage said:

- Well done, Mohab. Now that you have gathered all the mirrors, you can face the Wicked Giants with confidence and vanquish the evils that dwell inside them. For the giants do not know that inside each one of them there is an evil monster growing. So they must look in the mirrors to see how evil they became. When you are face-to-face with a giant, do not talk to him, just wait for him to attack you, and at the last second put the mirror in front of his face, and see what happens for yourself.

Mohab came out carrying the mirrors organized in a large bag, and looked at the map, then went east toward the Great Tower.

When he arrived, he entered the ground floor, and went up to the first floor. The Arrogant Giant saw him, and instantly knew he had come to retrieve the key. So the Giant hastened toward Mohab to destroy him. Mohab quickly took out the mirror of Humility and placed it in front of the Arrogant Giant's face. The Giant stared at his reflection in the mirror. He saw a horrific, disgusting monster! Stunned, he fell on his knees in shock and shame, and then covered his face with his hands and started crying. He never noticed before how he turned into a terrifying, disgusting monster.

Mohab left him and went up to the second floor and did the same with the second Giant, then the third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth, and the seventh. The Giants were stunned

and shocked at the sight of their abominable, despicable reflections in the mirrors. The shock was overwhelming, as they realized that evil went deep into them and blinded their souls. So the Giants repented, and then they gathered around Mohab and brought him the key to the metal box that covers the village well. They asked him to tell the people of the village how sorry they were, and that they regretted bitterly their shameful act. Mohab promised them to do so, then he came out of the tower and went back to the Sage's house happily. When he arrived, he gave him the key and told him what happened, and told him about the repentance of the Giants. The Sage rejoiced and hugged Mohab with paternal affection. Then he said:

- Well done, my son. You saved the village from peril, and saved the seven Giants from their evils. I will gather the villagers and announce that you have retrieved the key. And I will tell them about the repentance of the Giants. You are the hero of the village, Mohab; and I hope that you accept being my assistant from this day!

Thus, the adventures of the brave Mohab ended in success, and he managed to retrieve the key, and he became the Sage's assistant.

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